REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 21, 2003. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office Action's objection to the drawing, Applicants respectfully request that substitute Fig. 2, incorporating the legend PRIOR ART be entered. Two (2) copies of Substitute Fig. 2 are herewith included. Applicants respectfully believe that substitute Fig. 2 renders the objection moot and respectfully request its withdrawal.

In response to the objection to Claims 5-8, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to Claims 5-6 and the cancellation of Claims 7-8 adequately respond to the objection and respectfully request its withdrawal.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-3 and 7-9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ramamurthy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,114; hereinafter "Ramamurthy"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 4-6 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramamurthy. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending application and claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's Claim 1 recites: "A method for testing digital circuitry through effecting a paired loop-back from a first buffered output to a first buffered input whilst within the circuitry executing at least part of the test through using a Built-In-Self-Test methodology, characterized by effecting said loop-back from the first buffered data output to a buffered control input, wherein in connection with said buffering, executing a conversion between a digital full swing internal signal and an analog low swing external signal and a conversion between an analog low swing signal and a digital full swing signal, with respect to core circuitry of said digital circuitry."

Ramamurthy fails to recite or suggest converting a digital full swing signal to an analog signal and then back to a digital full swing signal. an evaluation unit for determining the velocity of a defect on the surface and from this velocity determining the position of the defect on the surface. Ramamurthy cannot handle analog input and analog output signals. Thus Ramamurthy fails to recite or suggest all the limitations of Applicants' Claim 1. Applicants believe Claim 1 to be patentable over Ramamurthy for at least these reasons.

Independent Claim 2 recites a method substantially corresponding to the method of Claim 1 and is believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, however, they are also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and should be individually considered on its own merits. Further, Applicants respectfully believe that the § 103 rejections of Claims 4-6 and 10-11 to be moot in light of the above remarks and requests their withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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